

Preliminary Amendment filed January 30, 2004

Continuation of Ser. No. 09/590,213

= 10/768,349

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 5, before the word "BACKGROUND", please insert the following new paragraph.

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A The present application is a continuation of Ser. No. 09/590,213, filed June 8, 2000, ^{U.S. Patent No. 6,718,258,} the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

1 METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
2 OBTAINING USER FEEDBACK
3 REGARDING GEOGRAPHIC DATA
4

A 5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

6 The present invention relates to geographic data used in navigation systems and
7 more particularly the present invention relates to a method and system to obtain end user
8 input regarding perceived errors or inaccuracies in the geographic data used in navigation
9 systems or used by on-line sites that provide navigation-related or map-related services.

10 Navigation systems provide useful features, such as calculating a route to a
11 desired destination and providing guidance for following the route. In order to provide
12 these features, navigation systems use geographic data that include information about the
13 locations of roads and intersections, estimated travel times along road segments, the
14 speed limits along roads, etc. Using these kinds of geographic data, programming
15 included in a navigation system can find an optimal (e.g., fastest or shortest) route to a
16 specified destination.

17 Although navigation systems provide useful features, there still exists room for
18 improvement. One area in which there is room for improvement relates to the collection
19 of geographic data. The collection of geographic data for use in navigation systems is a
20 significant undertaking. The initial collection of data about the roads in a geographic
21 area is a significant task. Beyond the effort involved in collecting data for use in
22 navigation systems, there is a continuing need to update and check the geographic data.
23 Just like conventional printed maps, geographic data used in navigation systems becomes
24 out-of-date. For example, new roads are built, businesses change locations, road
25 construction closes roads, detours are established, museum and restaurant hours change,
26 etc. Thus, the collection of geographic data for navigation systems is a continuing effort.